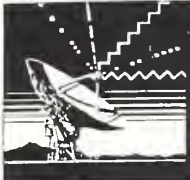


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AS21. A87F3



# Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

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Letter No. 2740

November 17, 1995

**NO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AT USDA --** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is up and running while most of the Federal Government has shut down, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (November 13). Secretary Glickman said, "That is because President Clinton and Congress worked together to get USDA's fiscal year (FY) 1996 appropriations act passed. The President signed it October 21." USDA's appropriations bill, one of only two approved at the time of shutdown, provides funding for most programs and activities of the Department. While the agriculture appropriations act does not cover the Forest Service, which is funded by the Interior appropriations bill, FY 95 carryover funds are available for its operation for about a month longer than any shutdown is expected to last. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

**PRICE SUPPORT RATES ANNOUNCED --** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced (November 14) 1996 national average price support rates of \$4.92 per bushel for soybeans and \$8.70 per hundredweight for minor oilseeds (sunflower seed, canola, rapeseed, safflower, flaxseed and mustard seed). Loan rates for the 1996 oilseed crops are unchanged from 1995 and are the statutory minimum price support levels. The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, mandates a nonrecourse price support loan program with marketing loan provisions for the 1996 crops of soybeans and other oilseeds. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206.**

**USDA SUPPLY/DEMAND REPORT TO BE RELEASED EARLIER --** The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing faster electronic access to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. The monthly report, which forecasts U.S. and world supply and use of major commodities, is now posted electronically within one hour of release instead of three hours. Free access is available through a dial-up bulletin board, an Internet Gopher site and automatic electronic mail delivery. The bulletin board supports modem access up to 9600 baud (8,N,1) at these numbers: 1-800-821-6229, 202-219-0377 and 202-219-0378. For Gopher access on the Internet use "usda.mannlib.cornell.edu." For World Wide Web access use "gopher://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu." **Contact: Raymond Bridge (202) 720-5447.**

**CANTON GROCERS IMPRISONED --** Two Canton, Ohio residents and a corporation were sentenced for conspiring to traffic and launder the illegal proceeds from about \$2 million in USDA food stamps during a four-and-one-half year period the U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General Roger Viadero announced (November 9). In Cleveland, Federal Judge Kathleen O'Malley sentenced Mohammed "Mike" Hmeidan, age 32, to 57 months incarceration, \$500,000 restitution, and a \$50,000 fine for his role in the scheme. Max Food, Inc., the purported owner of Maxie's Food Market in Canton, was fined \$500,000 and placed on three years probation. Its corporate vice president, Ronald L. Bennett, age 46, was sentenced to 27 months incarceration, followed by 300 hours of community service. **Contact: Dianne Smith (202) 720-6915.**

**"CLEAN BEAN MACHINE"** -- Jill Long Thompson, USDA Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development, participated in a Capitol Hill event November 9 marking the introduction of a clean-burning, biodiesel-powered bus to operate in the Washington, D.C. area. The largest privately-owned bus company in the Washington metropolitan area will be running its tour coaches and trolleys on biodiesel supplied by soybean farmers from across the country. Under Secretary Thompson said, "This 'clean bean machine' demonstration project is an example that uses environmentally friendly renewable energy sources to help clean our nation's air pollution." Biodiesel is an alternative fuel derived from agricultural feedstocks such as animal fat and oil seeds, such as soybeans. An average acre of soybeans will provide enough biodiesel to power one of the buses from Washington D.C. to New York. **Contact: Ron Buckhalt (202) 690-1624.**

**CHANGES TO CATTLE ON FEED REPORTS IN '96** -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is planning several changes to the cattle on feed estimating program. Beginning in January 1996, a monthly cattle on feed report covering feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head will replace the current seven-state monthly and thirteen-state quarterly reports. The new report will include estimates for major states, an "all other states" total and the United States. About 80 percent of U.S. cattle on feed inventory is held by feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head. By focusing on these feedlots for the monthly reports, NASS will more efficiently use its survey resources. NASS will continue to publish the current monthly seven-state estimates for feedlots with capacities of 1,000 or more head and will also continue to provide state-level estimates of cattle on feed in all feedlots, regardless of size, each January and total U.S. cattle on feed inventory in July. **Contact: Fred Vogel (202) 720-3896.**

**TARIFF RATE QUOTA UP FOR RAW-CANE SUGAR IN '96** --Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (November 9) that the fiscal year 1996 tariff-rate quota (TRQ) for raw-cane sugar was increased by 300,000 metric tons (330,693 short tons). The fiscal year 1996 TRQ level is set at 1,417,195 metric tons (1,562,190 short tons). Country allocations of the increased TRQ will be announced by the U.S. Trade Representative. The Department will continue monitoring import requirements and will adjust the TRQ accordingly. Final TRQ adjustment will be made on the basis of the most reliable supply and use information available. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

**SPECIAL UPLAND COTTON QUOTA ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASED** -- For the eleventh time, high cotton prices have triggered a special import quota that will permit the importation of a quantity of upland cotton equal to one week's domestic mill use, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced (November 9). The special import quota that will permit the importation of 43,624,810 kilograms (96,176,321 pounds) of upland cotton is being established on Nov. 15. The quota applies to upland cotton purchased not later than February 12, 1996, and entered into the U.S. not later than May 12, 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. Future quotas, in addition to the quantity announced, will be established if price conditions warrant. This action is in accordance with section 103B(a)(5)(F) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended. **Contact: Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-8841.**

## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

**AGRICULTURE USA# 2007 --** AmeriCorps, the National Service Program, has just celebrated its first birthday. Gary Crawford takes a look at program accomplishments. **(Weekly Cassette -- five minute documentary).**

**CONSUMER TIME# 1486--** A night in the Ukraine. Phosphates and laundry detergents. Headaches and food. First time home buying. Shortfall in food aid projected. **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

**AGRITAPE #1999--** Grain supplies tight and prices strong. Uncertain future for cotton. Agriculture Secretary testifies on railroad concentration. Soybean production unchanged, but prices up. 1995/96 rice overview. **(Weekly cassette -- new features).**

**UPCOMING ON THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINE--** Thursday, November 30, agriculture exports, world tobacco trade and world sugar trade. Friday, December 1, world horticultural trade. Monday, December 4, Europe outlook. Tuesday, December 5, weekly weather and crop report. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

**USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

**COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545**

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

## FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

**FEATURES:** Patrick O'Leary reports on the "clean bean machines," a fleet of Washington, D.C. tour buses that are running on biodiesel fuel made from U.S. soybeans. USDA Under Secretary Jill Long Thompson and Gold Line Bus Company Vice President Charles Cummings comment with footage from a recent news event on Capitol Hill (1:48 minutes). Patrick O'Leary reports on a new agreement between the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy to cooperate on research projects, such as precision farming and integrated pest management. USDA Secretary Dan Glickman and DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary comment with footage from a recent "memo of understanding" signing ceremony (2:00 minutes).

**ACTUALITIES:** USDA Farm Service Agency official Kenneth Ackerman talks about a new USDA crop insurance program for Florida citrus trees. USDA meteorologist Bob Stefanski with an update of crop and weather conditions in U.S. farming regions.

**SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS:** Thursdays at 3:45-4:00 p.m. ET on Telstar 303, Transponder 5H(horizontal), Channel 10, Downlink Frequency 3900 MHZ, Audio, 6.2/6.8.

**Comments and suggestions about USDA broadcast services are welcome. Call Larry A. Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300. Internet E-mail: LQuinn@USDA.GOV.**

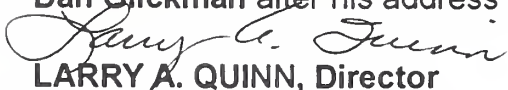
## OFF MIKE

**NAFB BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR...**for 1995 is **Mike Adams** (WLDS Radio, Jacksonville, IL). Mike was honored last week in Kansas City at the 51st Annual Convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) as both northeast region and overall winner. Other regional winners: **Stewart Doan** (ARN Agriculture, Little Rock, AR), south central; **Rick Haines** (Northern Ag Network, Billings, MT), west; **Johnnie Hood** (Southern Farm Network, Raleigh, NC), southeast; **Mike Hergert** (Red River Farm Network, Grand Forks, ND), north central.

**HORIZON AWARD...**presented for the first time by NAFB to recognize new/upcoming broadcasters...went to **Carey Martin** (Oklahoma Agrinet, Oklahoma City, OK). NAFB's Meritorious Service Award was presented to **Donna Dunn** (U.S. Feed Grains Council, Washington, D.C.). NAFB Hall of Fame inductees were **George Logan** (Topeka, KS) and **Maynard Speece** (Edina, MN). Oscars in Agriculture merit awards were earned by the WRAL-TV team of **Dan Wilkinson**, **Ray Wilkinson** and **Ken Tanner** (Raleigh, NC) and by **Kim Dlouhy** (WOW, Omaha, NE).

**NEW OFFICERS...**for NAFB who begin their terms January 1 include President **John Winfield** (Mississippi Network, Jackson, MS), President-Elect **Don Wick** (WNAX, Yankton, SD), Vice President **Stewart Doan** (ARN Agriculture, Little Rock, AR), Director of Member Services **Rick Haines** (Northern Ag Network, Billings, MT), Director of Revenue Development **Lynn Ketelsen** (Linder Farm Network, Willmar, MN), Associates Chairman **David Mehlhaff** (Fleishman-Hillard, Inc., Kansas City, MO) and Director of Industry Positioning **Matt Gillon** (WHO, Des Moines, IA).

**NEW RECORD...**attendance was reached at this year's NAFB meeting. While there, **Gary Crawford** and I met with NAFB's Radio Committee to discuss USDA's radio services. **Tom Amontree**, USDA's Press Secretary, assisted broadcasters who interviewed Agriculture Secretary **Dan Glickman** after his address there.

  
**LARRY A. QUINN, Director**

**Video, Teleconference and Radio Center**



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